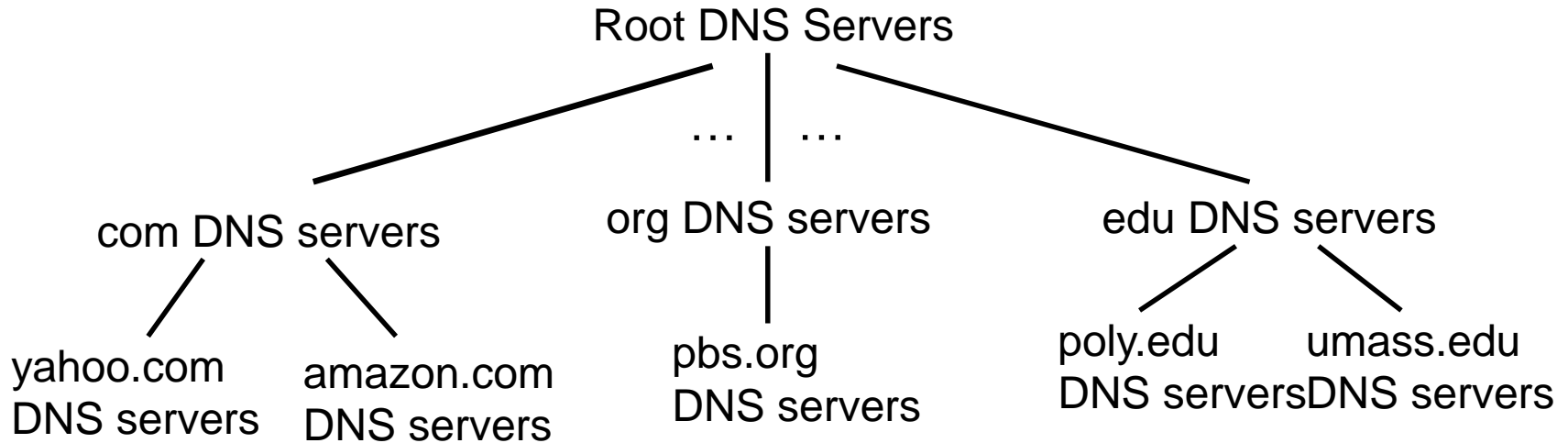


ECE 440 - Introduction to Computer Networks

Spring 2019

DNS: a distributed, hierarchical database

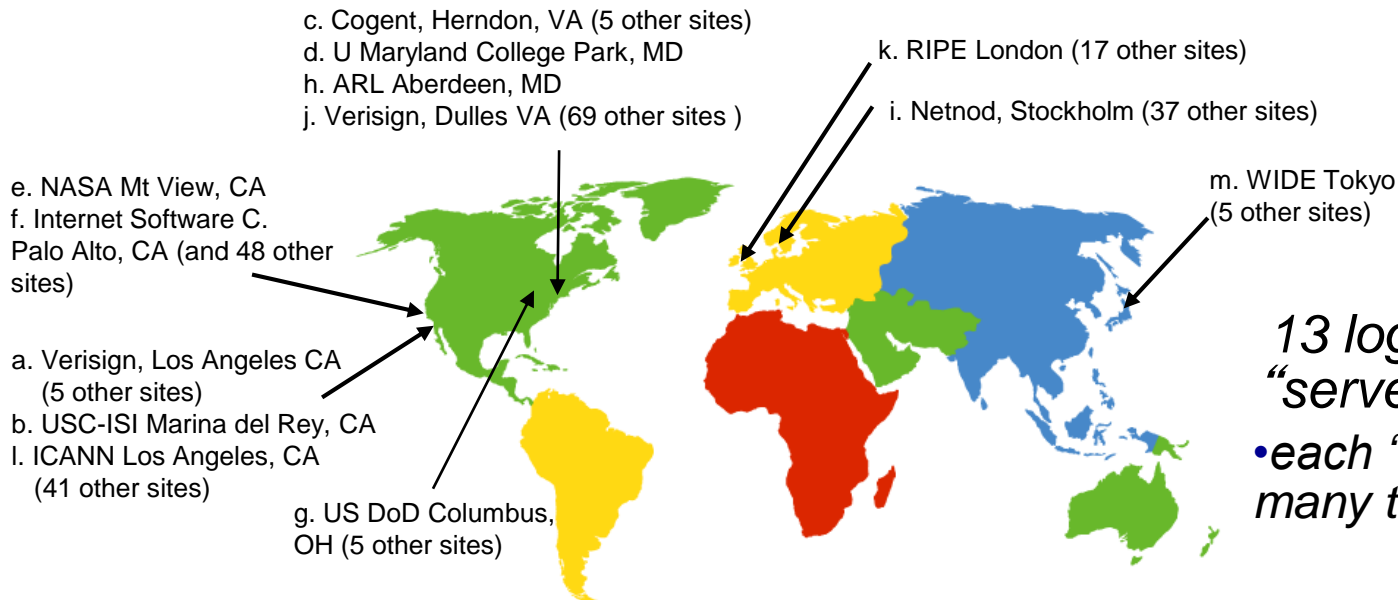


client wants IP for www.amazon.com; 1st approximation:

- client queries root server to find com DNS server
- client queries .com DNS server to get amazon.com DNS server
- client queries amazon.com DNS server to get IP address for www.amazon.com

DNS: root name servers

- contacted by local name server that can not resolve name
- root name server:
 - contacts authoritative name server if name mapping not known
 - gets mapping
 - returns mapping to local name server



*13 logical root name
“servers” worldwide*
• *each “server” replicated
many times*

TLD, authoritative servers

top-level domain (TLD) servers:

- responsible for com, org, net, edu, aero, jobs, museums, and all top-level country domains, e.g.: uk, fr, ca, jp
- Network Solutions maintains servers for .com TLD
- Educause for .edu TLD

authoritative DNS servers:

- organization's own DNS server(s), providing authoritative hostname to IP mappings for organization's named hosts
- can be maintained by organization or service provider

Local DNS name server

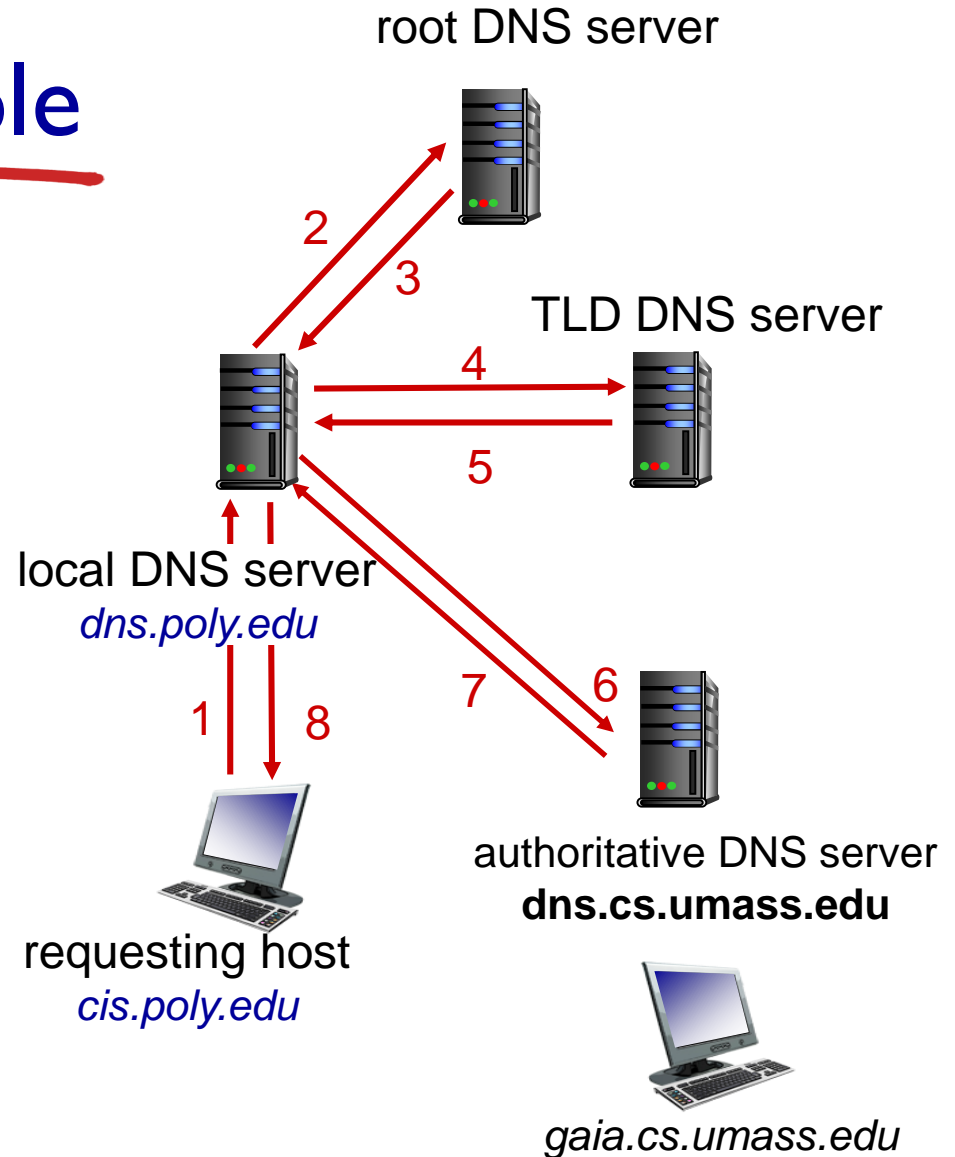
- does not strictly belong to hierarchy
- each ISP (residential ISP, company, university) has one
 - also called “default name server”
- when host makes DNS query, query is sent to its local DNS server
 - has local cache of recent name-to-address translation pairs (but may be out of date!)
 - acts as proxy, forwards query into hierarchy

DNS name resolution example

- host at cis.poly.edu wants IP address for gaia.cs.umass.edu

iterated query:

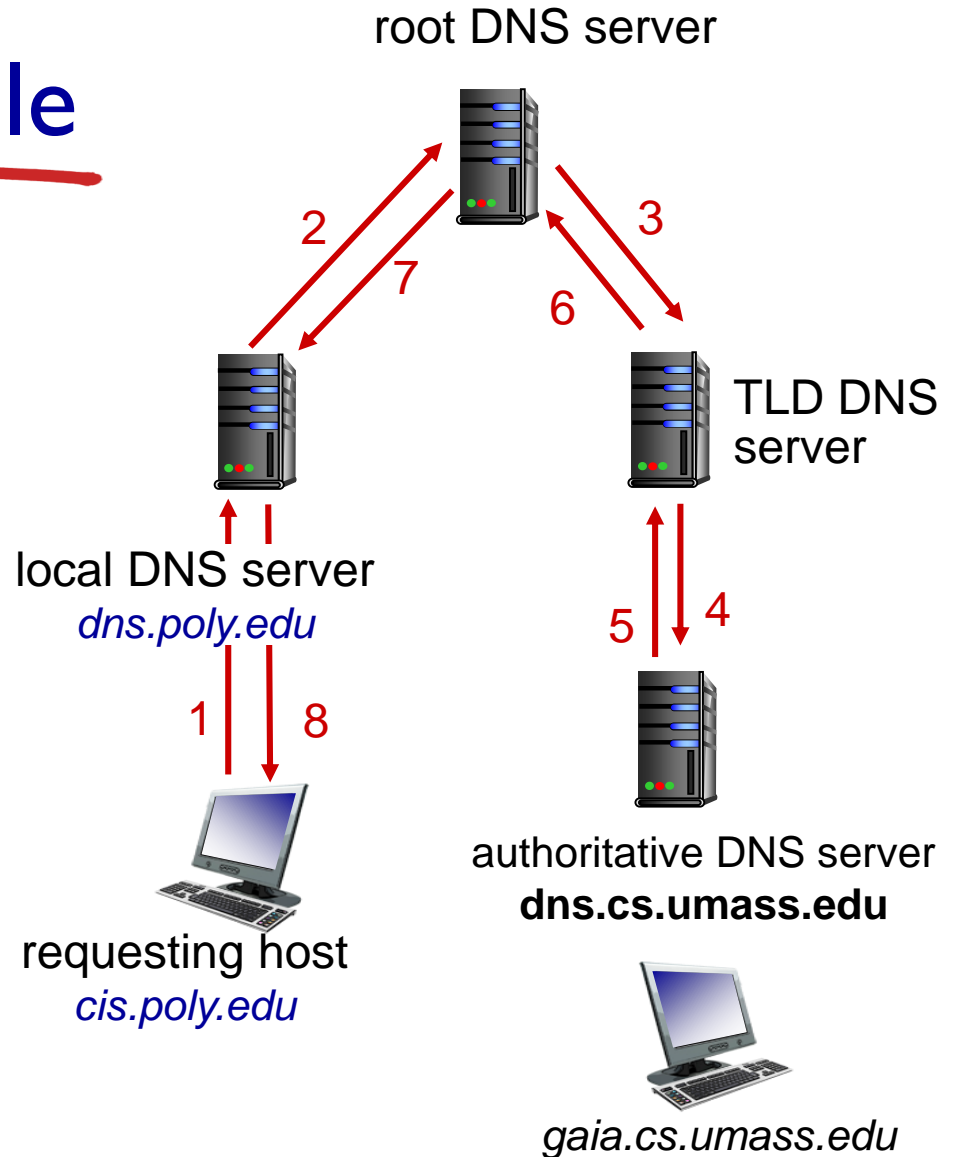
- contacted server replies with name of server to contact
- “I don’t know this name, but ask this server”



DNS name resolution example

recursive query:

- puts burden of name resolution on contacted name server
- heavy load at upper levels of hierarchy?



DNS: caching, updating records

- once (any) name server learns mapping, it *caches* mapping
 - cache entries timeout (disappear) after some time (TTL)
 - TLD servers typically cached in local name servers
 - thus root name servers not often visited
- cached entries may be *out-of-date* (best effort name-to-address translation!)
 - if name host changes IP address, may not be known Internet-wide until all TTLs expire
- update/notify mechanisms proposed IETF standard
 - RFC 2136

DNS records

DNS: distributed database storing resource records (RR)

RR format: (name, value, type, ttl)

type=A

- **name** is hostname
- **value** is IP address

type=NS

- **name** is domain (e.g., foo.com)
- **value** is hostname of authoritative name server for this domain

type=CNAME

- **name** is alias name for some “canonical” (the real) name
- **www.ibm.com** is really **servereast.backup2.ibm.com**
- **value** is canonical name

type=MX

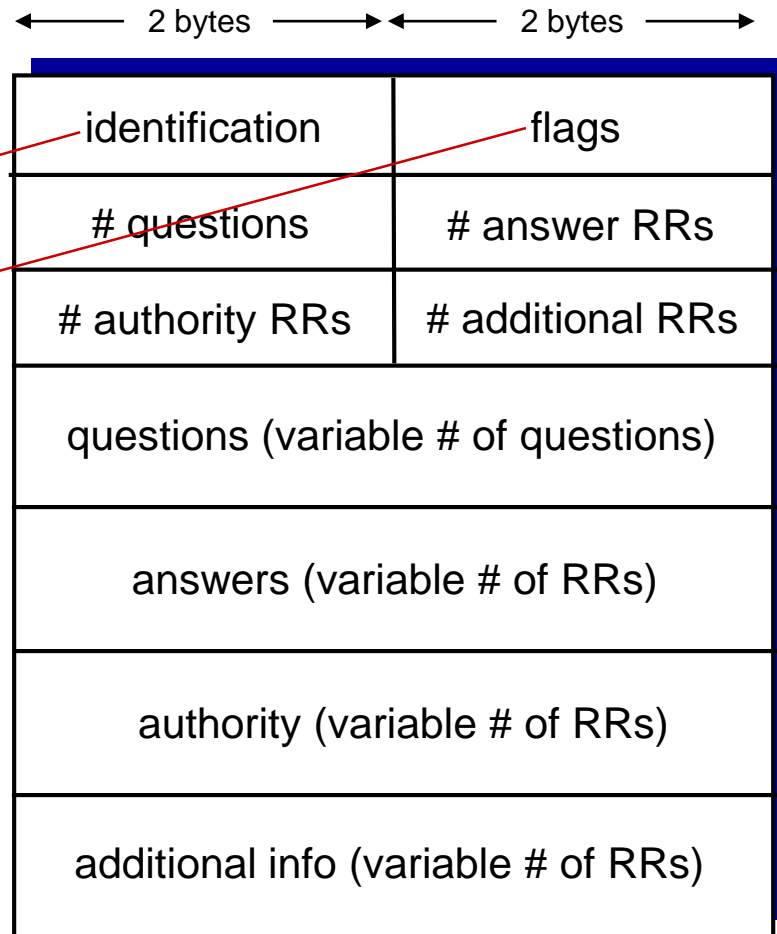
- **value** is name of mailserver associated with **name**

DNS protocol, messages

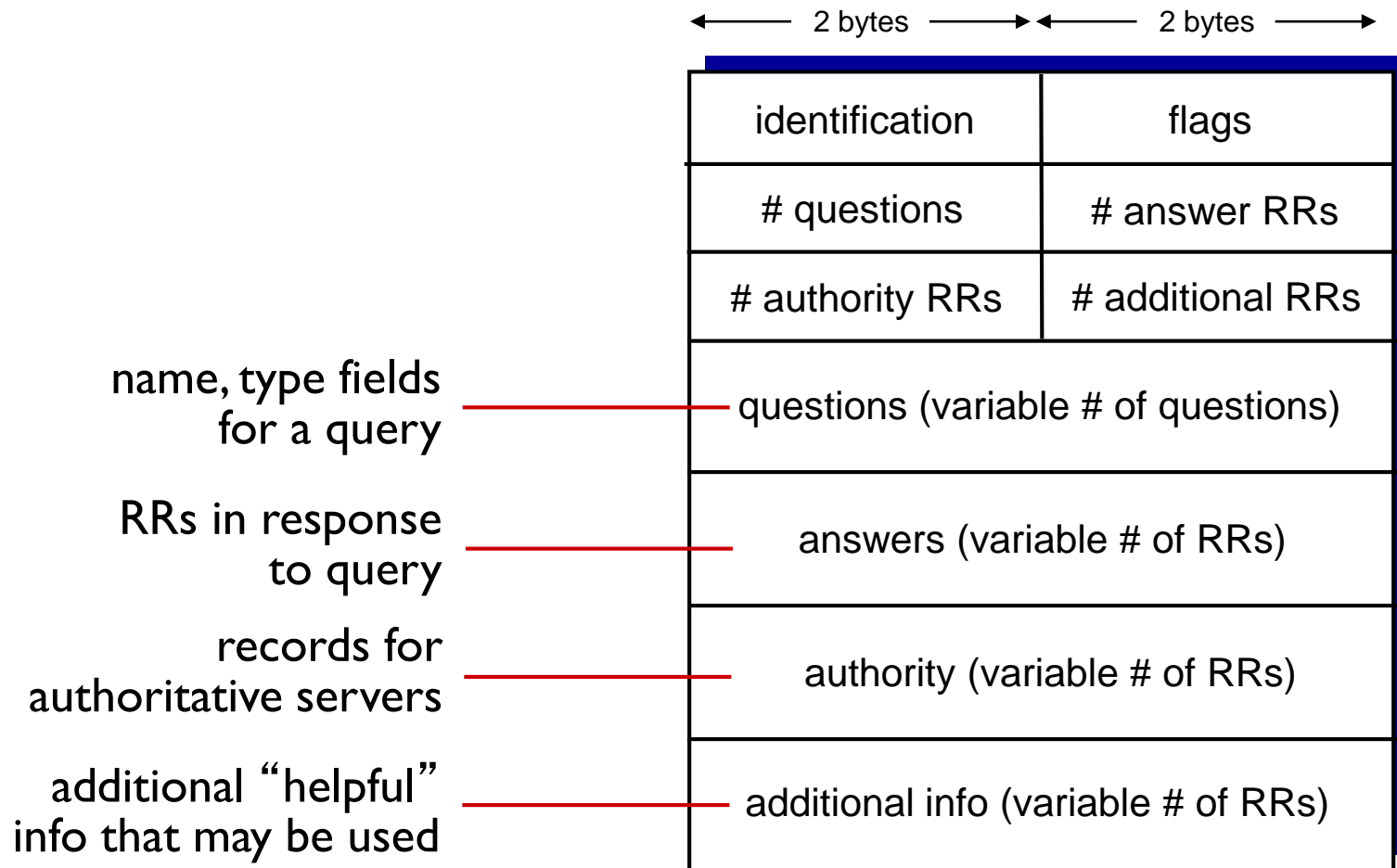
- *query* and *reply* messages, both with same *message format*

message header

- **identification**: 16 bit # for query, reply to query uses same #
- **flags**:
 - query or reply
 - recursion desired
 - recursion available
 - reply is authoritative



DNS protocol, messages



Inserting records into DNS

- example: new startup “Network Utopia”
- register name networkutopia.com at *DNS registrar* (e.g., Network Solutions)
 - provide names, IP addresses of authoritative name server (primary and secondary)
 - registrar inserts two RRs into .com TLD server:
(networkutopia.com, dns1.networkutopia.com, NS)
(dns1.networkutopia.com, 212.212.212.1, A)
- create authoritative server type A record for www.networkutopia.com; type MX record for networkutopia.com

Attacking DNS

DDoS attacks

- bombard root servers with traffic
 - not successful to date
 - traffic filtering
 - local DNS servers cache IPs of TLD servers, allowing root server bypass
- bombard TLD servers
 - potentially more dangerous

redirect attacks

- man-in-middle
 - Intercept queries
- DNS poisoning
 - Send invalid information to DNS server, which caches

exploit DNS for DDoS

- send queries with spoofed source address: target IP
- requires amplification

Chapter 2: outline

2.1 principles of network applications

2.2 Web and HTTP

2.3 electronic mail

- SMTP, POP3, IMAP

2.4 DNS

2.5 P2P applications

2.6 video streaming and content distribution networks

2.7 socket programming with UDP and TCP

Pure P2P architecture

- *no* always-on server
- arbitrary end systems directly communicate
- peers are intermittently connected and change IP addresses

examples:

- file distribution (BitTorrent)
- Streaming (KanKan)
- VoIP (Skype)

